

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CENTRAL REFERENCE

9 September 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Contracting Officer, DFD

ATTENTION : [ ] STATINTL

SUBJECT : Overrun on MINICARD Contract, EQ 1806

1. Pursuant to your request and as a result of the meeting on 3 September 1959 held in your office, we have the following statement to make relative to the alleged overrun on the contract with Eastman Kodak Co. (EQ 1806, 1 March 1956) to provide two sets of MINICARD equipment to be used by OCR and PIC.

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2. Examination of the EK Co. letter of 15 August 1958 from [ ] has revealed two major charges for which we can find no reason.

a. A charge for systems engineering of [ ] is entirely unwarranted. No systems engineering was carried out by EK Co. for either installation which we can identify.

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b. The contract specifies delivery and installation of the equipment, but an overrun charge of [ ] is claimed.

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3. Detailed review of the list of machine modifications attached to the EK Co. letter of 9 October 1959 to Mr. Bissell from [ ] would not provide any basis for assigning monetary value to each of the so-called modifications. We have therefore attached greater benefit to a comparison of specifications for the equipment contained in RCSSP/DSF/1jg, 11 May 1956, Rome Air Development Center.

4. Our comparisons lead us to the over-all conclusion that no benefit to the government accrued as a result of the changes made from the cited specifications. As a matter of fact the MINICARD equipment operates at a materially lower capability than was specified. cursory review will make clear that the sorter and selector operate at  $\frac{1}{2}$  the proposed speed, the capacity of the input and file construction was strongly curtailed, and the duplicator operating flexibility was modified to make more tedious the production of file duplicates.

DOCUMENT NO.  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. X  
IN CASE OF  
DATE 12/14/81 REVIEWER: 064540

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Specifications did not provide for special devices and processing steps to mask the sortation field on first generation MINICARDS nor to lubricate the film. Specifically, we are prepared to cite the following deficiencies.

Page 6, 3.6.2.1.1 CODE RECORDING.

Specification: 43 bits plus timing mark in each column of code, one of the 43 bits for code checking operations in camera, duplicator, and selector.

Deficiency: Only 42 bits plus timing mark provided, no check bit, no code checking feature in camera, duplicator, or selector.

Specification: Possible to record a minimum of 70 columns of code on the MINICARD in 18 seconds.

Deficiency: Only 65 columns of code, including the Sortation Column can be recorded in 64 seconds.

Page 8, 3.6.3.1 FILM PROCESSOR HANDLING CAPACITY.

Specification: The film processor shall be capable of handling film with leader and trailer not longer than 24 inches.

Deficiency: It is necessary to use approximately 24 feet of leader and trailer in the film processor.

Page 8, 3.6.3.2 FILM PROCESSOR LOADING.

Specification: The processor shall be self-threading.

Deficiency: The processor is not self-threading.

Page 9, 3.6.3.4 RATE OF OPERATION.

Specification: The processor shall operate at the rate of 10 feet of film per minute.

Deficiency: The processor operates at the rate of 5 feet of film per minute.

Page 9, 3.6.3.5.1 INDICATION OF NEED TO REPLACE PROCESSING CHEMICALS.

Specification: Suitable indicators shall be provided on the processor to give adequate warning to the operator when processing solutions and chemicals need replacing or replenishing.

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Deficiency: No such indicators are provided.

Page 9, 3.6.4 INSPECTION VIEWER.

Specification: The inspection viewer shall be so designed so that it can be used as a separate unit or as an integral part of the film processor.

Deficiency: The inspection viewer cannot be used as an integral part of the film processor.

Page 10, 3.6.6 DUPLICATOR OPERATING RATE.

Specification: The duplicator shall operate at a rate of about 2 cards per second when making identical duplicates.

Deficiency: The duplicator operates at a rate of about 1 card per second when making identical duplicates.

Page 11, 3.6.6.6 TRANSFERRING CODE.

Specification: The duplicator shall be capable of adding code in any column of the sorting field of a duplicate.

Deficiency: The several sorting columns referred to were not made available. Only one sortation column is available. This greatly reduces the capability of the system by restricting any file sortation item to one word of six characters.

Specification: In the case where multiple MINICARDS are to be duplicated, means shall be provided to store at least 200 machine words of coded data from the open field of a MINICARD set for transfer to the duplicates which are to be made.

Deficiency: A maximum of 30 open field words can be stored.

Page 12, 3.6.7.1 SORTING.

Specification: The equipment shall be capable of feeding MINICARDS from the intermediate magazine past the sensing station to be distributed in the proper magazine of a 100 section magazine.

Deficiency: Sorted MINICARDS are distributed in a 10 section magazine (plus 1 reject section). This more than doubles the handling time for sorting operations.

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Page 13, 3.6.7.7 RATE OF SORTER OPERATION.

Specification: The MINICARD filing sorter shall be capable of being operated continuously at speeds of at least 1200 MINICARDS per minute.

Deficiency: The filing sorter operates at a rate of 600 MINICARDS per minute.

Page 13, 3.6.8 MINICARD SELECTOR.

Specification: The MINICARD selector shall have the capability of performing fine sorting operations.

Deficiency: The MINICARD selector does not have the capability of performing fine sorting operations.

Page 15, 3.6.8.5 CARD HANDLING CAPACITY.

Specification: MINICARDS shall be handled in the MINICARD selector at a speed of at least 1200 cards per minute.

Deficiency: The MINICARD selector operates at a speed of approximately 650 cards per minute.

Page 16, 3.6.9.5.1 ENLARGER PRINTER.

Specification: Suitable automatic visual indicators shall be provided on the processor to give adequate warning when the processing solutions and chemicals need replacing or replenishing.

Deficiency: No such automatic visual indicators are provided.

5. If you require further information, we shall be happy to provide same.

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Assistant Director  
Central Reference